

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 201218Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3862

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 12792

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJ: LETTER FROM LON NOL TO POMPIDOU ON UN CREDENTIALS ISSUE

REF: USUN 4748

1. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS FURNISHED US A COPY OF A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 18 FROM MARSHAL LON NOL TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU, REQUESTING THE LATTER'S ASSISTANCE ON THE KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE AT UNGA. FOLLOWING IS OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH (COMPLEMENTARY SALUTATION AND CLOSE OMITTED):

2. BEGIN TEXT. YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT ONLY CONCERN TO PREVENT AN INJUSTICE WHICH CERTAIN COUNTRIES ARE ATTEMPTING TO INFLICT UPON THE KHMER REPUBLIC IN THE UNITED NATIONS MOVES ME TO REVIEW THE HISTORIC EVENTS WHICH LED TO PRINCE SIHANOUK'S REMOVAL AS CAMBODIAN CHIEF OF STATE.

3. WITHOUT NOTIFYING EITHER PARLIAMENT OR HIS GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME, SIHANOUK ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY PERMITTED NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG TROOPS, BEGINNING IN 1965, TO ESTABLISH ON KHMER TERRITORY ACTUAL BASES (SANCTUARIES) IN THE CAMBODIAN-SOUTH VIETNAMESE FRONTIER REGION, IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE NEUTRALITY POLICY ESTABLISHED
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FOR MY COUNTRY BY THE 1954 GENEVA ACCORDS.

4. THE PEOPLE, DISCONTENTED BY THIS INVASION, DEMONSTRATED VIOLENTLY FIRST IN THE PROVINCES AND THEN IN PHNOM

PENH AGAINST THIS UNPATRIOTIC POLICY, WHICH INFRINGED UPON THE INDEPENDENCE, THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY.

5. TAKING NOTE OF THIS PUBLIC DETERMINATION TO SAVE CAMBODIA FROM ILLEGAL OCCUPATION, PARLIAMENT MEETING IN CONGRESS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY AFTER A LONG DEBATE TO WITHDRAW CONFIDENCE FROM PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHO BY HIS PERSONAL POLICIES BROUGHT ABOUT THESE TERRITORIAL ENCROACHMENTS BY HOSTILE FOREIGNERS.

6. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REPUBLICAN REGIME WAS INSTITUTED AS A RESULT OF THE PUBLIC WILL AND ON UNASSAILABLE DEMOCRATIC FOUNDATIONS. IN FACT, ON APRIL 30, 1972 THE KHMER PEOPLE IN A REFERENDUM ORGANIZED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND IN WHICH PARTICIPATED MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS SPOKE OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION.

7. ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION, I WAS ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL, DIRECT SUFFRAGE ON JUNE 4, 1972 TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

8. THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS OF SEPTEMBER 3 AND 17, 1972, ALSO BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, DESIGNATED SUCCESSIVELY THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE.

9. MR. PRESIDENT, THIS SHORT HISTORICAL REVIEW IS ONLY DESIGNED TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE LEGALITY OF THE DEPOSITION OF PRINCE SIHANOUK AND THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHICH IS ENDOWED WITH DEMOCRATICALLY ESTABLISHED STATE INSTITUTIONS.

10. THIS SUMMARY DOES NOT DRAW ATTENTION TO THE AGGRESSIVE WAR OF WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN THE VICTIM SINCE
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MARCH 29, 1970, A WAR IMPOSED BY HANOI AND VIET CONG LEADERS WITH ANNEXATIONIST AIMS.

11. DESPITE THIS IRREFUTABLE LEGITIMACY AND, ABOVE ALL, THIS OPEN AGGRESSION PERPETRATED AGAINST THE KHMER REPUBLIC, IT IS SAD TO NOTE THAT COUNTRIES ARE NOW MANEUVERING WITHIN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONTEST THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF MY COUNTRY TO CONTINUE TO TAKE PART IN THIS AUGUST ASSEMBLY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 12792

EXDIS

12. THE IMMORALITY OF SUCH AN ACT SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED, ESPECIALLY SO IN THAT ITS AUTHORS WOULD BE VIOLATING OPENLY THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS' CHARTER AND WOULD BE COMMITTING INADMISSALBE INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A MEMBER STATE.

13. SUCH A VIOLATION CANNOT ESCAPE OFFENDING THE HIGH SENSE OF JUSTICE, EQUITY AND DEMOCRACY WHICH FRANCE HAS DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY.

14. EXCELLENCY, BEING A WITNESS OF YOUR DEEP WISDOM IN THE DIRECTION OF AFFAIRS OF STATE, I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU CAN IN NO WAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS MANEUVER, CHARACTERIZED BY ITS CYNICISM AND ITS SCORN FOR ALL JUSTICE. QUITE ON THE CONTRARY, THIS LACK OF DECENCY AND MODERATION CAN ONLY HELP DRAW YOUR EXCELLENCY'S SUPPORT FOR THE JUST CAUSE OF MY COUNTRY, ATTACKED SO CRUELLY FOR NEARLY FOUR YEARS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESES AND VIET CONG COMMUNISTS.

15. IT IS THUS WITHOUT ANY HESITATION WHATSOEVER THAT I SOLICIT THE SUPPORT OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT AT THE FORTHCOMING DEBATE OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE KHMER QUESTION. A VOTE BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION AGAINST THE RESOLUTION OF THE 32 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, DEMANDING THE SO-CALLED "RESTORATION OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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UNION OF CAMBODIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS" WILL BRING ABOUT THE DEFEAT OF THIS MANEUVER AND DO JUSTICE TO MY COUNTRY AND TO THE ENTIRE KHMER PEOPLE.

16. SUCH AN ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO THE VICTORY OF LAW OVER MIGHT IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE INTERNCAIONAL PRESTIGE OF

FRANCE WILL SURELY WIN OVER TO THE DEFENSE OF MY COUNTRY
A NUMBER OF STILL HESITANT COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE
NORDIC AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN STATES. SIGNED LON NOL.
END TEXT.

17. WE DO NOT KNOW THE MEANS BY WHICH THIS LETTTER IS
BEING CONVEYED TO THE ADDRESSEE, BUT WILL INQUIRE.
SOME OFFICIAL GKR COMMUNICATIONS TAKE A CONSIDERABLE
TIME TO REACH THEIR DESTINATIONS.
ENDERS

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